

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle door comprising:

inner and outer sheet metal layers joined together at their peripheries to define a cavity therebetween, [[the]] said inner sheet metal layer having at least two ~~relatively large~~ access holes therein providing access to said cavity and having a ~~relatively large~~ an intervening surface between [[the]] said at least two access holes; and

a door handle fastened to [[the]] said intervening surface of [[the]] said inner sheet metal layer;

said intervening surface including a plurality of vertically-orientated ribs substantially covering the entire area of said intervening surface;

wherein said inner sheet metal layer includes a continuous, closed loop plateau defining a flat surface surrounding each of said at least two access holes for sealingly mounting a secondary component to the door.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) A motor vehicle door according to claim [[36]] 35, wherein [[the]] said closed loop plateau includes a W-shaped portion formed in [[the]] said intervening surface between [[the]] said at least two access holes for preventing the presence of a laterally extending surface therebetween.

38. (Currently amended) A motor vehicle door according to claim [[37]] 35, wherein [[the]] said inner sheet metal layer includes a platform formed in [[the]] said intervening surface for structurally supporting [[the]] said door handle.